

8709.03

SEP - 3 1987

FAXED to

Joshua Lederberg

Dear Josh,

Josh

Welcome home! Harriet and I feel better knowing that Marguerite and you are back with us. As one might say, no island is entire of itself. . .

Many thanks for your instant response to the piece on sociological autobiography. Obviously these few pages don't say all that could be said on the subject even now but I simply can't go ahead to elucidate further and expand. Constraints of time and space.

I have however managed to plagiarize the final ¶ of your note to me and insert it on page 5 of the ms. which is presumably in press. Witness the attached page.

Small-world phenomenon once again: there you were dining with the Ken Arrows and here am I trying to reach Ken by telephone to urge him to give the next Paul Lazarsfeld Lecture.

Of course I agree that very few scientists manage to write disciplined memoirs. I suppose, for all sorts of reasons. Not least, perhaps, because the genre itself seems to be alien to rigor (in the tacit thought that rigor might deaden the memoir and lead to rigor mortis).

I'll be looking forward to your introduction to Vol. III of THE EXCITEMENT & FASCINATION OF SCIENCE, for I'm one of the lucky ones who know how very much you have to say on the implied subject of those volumes.

Bob
Robert K. Merton

✓
9/3/87 ☒ ↓ RKM
discarded